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MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

January 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM BAKER

FROM:

BILL CLARK

SUBJECT:

The Intelligence Identities Protection Act

(H.R.4/S.391)

NSC Review Completed as Redacted.

Passage of legislation to make criminal the unauthorized disclosure of the names of our secret intelligence officers is the key legislative element of our program to rebuild and strengthen American intelligence capabilities. Disclosure of the names of our intelligence officers continues with impunity, endangering their lives, seriously impairing the effectiveness of our clandestine operations, and adversely affecting morale within our intelligence agencies.

As you recall, the Administration-supported version of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act (H.R.4) was approved by the House 354 to 56 last September. However, despite this impressive victory, hard-core Senate opponents were able, through parliamentary delay, to amend the preferred version (introduced by Senator Chafee with over forty cosponsors) in Committee, and then to prevent final floor action by threatening a filibuster in the closing hours of the last session.

Opponents are engaged in an intense media campaign and are hoping that we will be slow to push this Bill in the new session, that support will erode, and, with the approach of the elections, delay will mean defeat of the Bill.

Need for this legislation remains critical. Moreover, passage of Identities Protection has become a bellwether for consideration of other intelligence legislation, as well as indication of the Administration's ability to resist the anti-intelligence lobby.

The President has indicated his strong support publicly in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee and in a statement signing the FY 1982 Intelligence Authorization Act.

I urge that we place the Intelligence Identities Protection Act high on the Administration "must" list and request that you ask Senator Baker to bring the Bill up as soon as possible in the new session. We should also give maximum support to Senator Chafee and the majority of the Senate Intelligence Committee in their efforts to amend S.391 on the floor and substitute the preferred language from H.R.4.

cc: Ed Meese Mike Deaver

Bill Casey

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Per my conversation with Gary Miller, please provide DCI recommendation re thanking Clark.

Executive Secretary 25 January 1982

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